GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2445
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
EXPANSION OF DD/AIR IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
BISHNU PADA RAY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair is not provided with adequate staff alongwith announcers of different languages and infrastructure facilities including studios at par with house of transmission;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have some proposal for expansion of DD/AIR schemesalongwith improvement in infrastructure facilities for Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for such purposes; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTEROF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) : Adequate staff has been provided to Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair, inaccordance with the existing norms. Facilities at Port Blair include a small studio Centre; Satellite uplink and two LPTs (DD-1&2)

(b) & (c) : Do not arise.

(d) & (e) : A special package for expansion/improvement of Doordarshan service in NEregion and in the Islands of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep has beenapproved in principle by the Government. Two VLPTs at Swarajgram andKalighat were commissioned in Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 2002- 2003.

The scheme of installation of 10 KW FM Radio transmitter with studiofacility has been proposed for Port Blair in the 10th Five Year Plan, for which an amount of Rs. 570 lakhs has been allocated. Under Software Plan Schemein the 10th Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs.4 lakhs was allocated to AIR PortBlair, during the financial year 2002-2003. An amount of Rs. 1.50 crores has been allocated to the DDG(South Zone), during the current financial year2003-2004 under Software Plan Scheme, which includes provision for AIR, Port Blair also.

(f) : Does not arise.